

ARCHITECTURAL GLOSSARY.

SIR.—Allow me to suggest to your notice, the propriety of devoting a portion of your valuable paper to the production of a glossary of terms connected with building and architecture, the compilation of which, while it would afford an opportunity to young aspirants after fame of distinguishing themselves, would be highly useful to the building-art in general, and, at the same time, supply in the form of a complete and accurate glossary of the present style of art, a want which has been long felt.

I would, with all deference, propose the following method of procedure:—Let a notice of your intentions appear in some future number of *THE BUILDER*, with a request to correspondents willing to assist you, to forward definitions of such words as begin with the letters *A* on or before that day month, the following words in each letter respectively to be sent at least one fortnight before their probable appearance in *THE BUILDER*: these notes would come under your searching inspection, and all approved definitions, or compilations of such, inserted, with the cuts necessary for illustrating the terms.

I have to observe that no notices of competitions for designs have had place in *THE BUILDER* for some time past; even one for two cemetery chapels in London, which was advertised in your own paper, had no notice taken of it. Was it a neglect, or is that part of your proposed arrangement thrown aside? I should hope not, as such notices could scarcely fail to produce many useful and instructive, though probably humbling lessons to *TYRNS* in the art, while it would be an obvious ladder for the ascent of ability.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Glasgow, Jan. 14, 1844. Poz.

[We beg to inform our correspondent that the formation of an architectural glossary which he thinks so desirable, has been undertaken by the Freeman of the Church: at the formation of the institution, the following declaration was made:—

"As a first labour of the College, it is proposed that the present unsatisfactory division and nomenclature of Pointed Architecture shall be remedied, and that all the publications of the society upon that subject shall be issued according to such classification and nomenclature. Not indeed that the perfecting of so desirable a project can be expected at once; but such a nomenclature can be laid down as shall immediately distinguish the different members of the art, which are as numerous as those of heraldry; and these can be superseded by more primitive or more simple and energetic terms, as they shall be recovered from ancient contracts and other documents, or shall be invented by more judicious and mature consideration. But, to prevent doubt or future mistake, it is proposed that a cut of each intended object shall be executed, and that a reference shall be made to where exemplars of it are to be found, and also to its chronology."

No doubt the College will add to the nomenclature of Gothic architecture, all that is previously known on building generally. The institution would, we judge, willingly profit by any suggestions which may be conveyed through our columns. The other subjects mentioned by our correspondent will receive due attention.—*En.*

THE LEICESTER MEMORIAL.

SIR.—In answer to your correspondent, "Another Competitor," who asks in your publication of to day, whether "my remarks apply to the design No. 40, stated to be the one selected?" I reply that in my letter of the 1st January I specifically alluded to the author of the design selected, when I wrote, "Can it be true that one of the candidates (or perhaps more) personally paraded his designs to many of his friends?"

I now ask again, did not the successful candidate exhibit four designs?

Did he not take two of these designs with him into Norfolk, some day in the week preceding that which was declared to be the last for the receiving of the designs; and then and there exhibit his drawings to many persons previously to their being sent in to the committee? In fact, did he not canvass for those two designs?

Lastly, was not one of those very designs, so exhibited, the successful one?

I assert that the facts are as here stated, and if so, any candidate so canvassing ought, in my opinion, to be disqualified from competing, if honour and straightforward dealing are to be at all considered as directing the fiat of the judges.

For myself, I do not complain of any neglect of my design, which is most probably inferior in merit

to the one selected; but this I do say, that I too had many friends amongst those interested (as subscribers), and, moreover, of much influence, but not one of these was even aware of my intention to compete. I should have scorned to use so unfair an advantage against my less fortunate brethren.

I am well aware, Mr. Editor, of the little weight attached in general (and frequently most properly) to an anonymous assertion. At the same time, I am also fully aware of the folly of running a Quisotic tilt against abuses such as that which I am here endeavouring to expose. I can, therefore, only retire from the presence of the committee with the feeling that I have been unfairly treated in common with many others; and whilst I utterly disclaim every feeling of personal anger, I, as one possessing a high esteem for the character of the late Lord Leicester during his lifetime, cannot but feel sincere sorrow that chicanery and want of candour should be mixed up with the very first act connected with the lasting memory of this fine old English gentleman.

"A COMPETITOR."

And, above all, a lover of fair play.
London, January 13, 1844.

NORMAN COTTAGE.

SIR.—In a recent number of your very important paper, you published a design for a Norman cottage, together with some others. Novelty and singularity combined must certainly have prompted the designer in his choice of style, and it is a very good precedent of the indiscriminate use of a peculiar style or order, without any regard to the applicability of the same in execution. Where novelty is governed by a refined taste, and in the hands of a skilful artist, much that is beautiful is likely to be the result. Why should every sense of propriety be sacrificed merely for the untutored mind to revel amid whim and caprice?

Norman architecture has always possessed the admiration of antiquarians and the disciples of our mystic art, but they have never thought that it was applicable to any other than ecclesiastical buildings. The general character of its masses, the form, and, compared with more recent styles, the frequent rudeness and heaviness of its details, afford, in my opinion, a complete barrier to its use for domestic buildings.

In our modern villa residences lightness and beauty are now looked upon as decidedly requisite; but in vain do we search for them in the massy cylindrical columns, or columnar piers of the nave, or the smaller ones of the triforium, in a Norman edifice. Grandeur and solemnity are the sources of our pleasure in viewing these buildings, but turn from such substantial piles to a residence where every part must be suitable to the purpose for which it is built, namely, "to a pretty villa residence." Is it not necessary to design according to the material to be used? for capital cannot be lavished and squandered away merely to give the elevation a good look, while, as in the Norman style, the interior fittings must of necessity be poor and unmeaning. It is, I think, quite a mistaken idea for students in architecture to attempt to design buildings, which answers to the proverb of mere "castles in the air." Architects are not merely called upon to design, but to superintend the carrying out of those designs. Hoping that my attempt to show style is of all importance in designing even the smallest building, will meet your approval.

I am, Sir, your well-wisher,
Jan. 2, 1844. H. VERNON.

[We insert this letter in order to conclude the series upon the subject. We in general desire correspondence of a more practical nature, but may hereafter ourselves show whether Norman architecture was supplanted by succeeding styles.—*En.*]

ARCHITECTS' COMPENSATION.

SIR.—In answer to your correspondent upon this matter, I beg to intimate to him that some years ago I had the unpleasant task of proceeding at law to recover compensation for designing and estimating the cost of buildings to a considerable extent, which were not carried into effect in consequence of the inability of the parties concerned to provide the funds, and to which I was an utter stranger until after the builder's tender was accepted, but then discovered the difficulty of obtaining a verdict for the amount of my bill, calculated at a per-centage on the amount of the estimate, although much under that stated by your correspondent. From the experience I have subsequently had, I can advise that if he intends proceeding at law, the charges that he will be able to substantiate will be a fair remuneration for the time engaged in the business, with incidental expenses, if any, added thereto; of course the skill of the work will be considered. I should say 40l. would be a fair charge, and there can be no doubt he will have the assistance of his brother architects whom he may subpoena to give evidence in support of his claim, provided the designs are properly executed. Proceeding for a

per-centage will be a failure, and but for occupying too great a space in your journal, I could satisfactorily explain that a per-centage, scarcely in any case, is a proper criterion for charging; hence the difficulty of proving the custom. I remember a survey on which I was engaged, where the bills were referred to a Master-in-Chancery, that the account, calculated by a commission on the amount, was returned with instructions that it might be made out according to the number of days engaged in the business, with the travelling and incidental expenses added, and when sent in in that form, amounted to some 40l. more, and was allowed.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
AN ARCHITECT.

P.S.—In proceeding at law to recover for professional services, the items must be set forth in the bill that they can be substantiated by the evidence; and in the case of your correspondent, should there be special attendance, or other extra trouble in the course of the business, he may recover for them beyond the designs and estimate; in fact, the great point is to make out the bill properly.

SCARPING OF TIMBER.

SIR.—If you or any of your readers would favour us in *THE BUILDER* with the best mode of scarping beams, it would greatly oblige yours.

A WELL-WISHER.

[We intend in the course of the year to give some representations of timber joints, and shall be happy to receive communications on the subject; in the meanwhile we beg to refer our correspondent to "Tredgold's Carpentry."—*En.*]

TIMBER VALUATION.

SIR.—I shall feel obliged if you, or any of your correspondents, can inform me in your next number of *THE BUILDER*, if there is any work published on the valuation of the different kinds of standing timber, and where any such work can be obtained.

Your well-wisher and subscriber,
Duffield, near Derby. D. D.

Tenders.

TENDERS for completing the works of three houses in Seccombe-street, and a workshop in Sutton-street, Clerkenwell, under the superintendence of Messrs. Reid and Son:—

Hawke	£187
Vigers	760
Alding and Son	737

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

ENLARGEMENT OF SUFFOLK LUNATIC ASYLUM.—SPECIFICATIONS, &c.—Dr. Kirkman, the Asylum; J. H. Borton, Clerk of the Peace, Bury St. Edmunds. January 22, 1844.

WORKHOUSE ALTERATIONS, ST. LUKE, MINCHESTER.—Plans, &c., at Workhouse.—J. Parson, Vestry Clerk. Feb. 7, 1844.

Paving and keeping in repair Foot and Carriage-way Pavements, Goodman's Fields.—Mr. Simmonds, Surveyor, 7, Great Alic-street. Jan. 26, 1844.

ALTERING EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY HALL AND COURTS OF JUSTICE, IPSWICH.—Plans, &c., for inspection.—Mr. Whiting, Surveyor, &c., County Hall, Ipswich; J. H. Borton, Clerk of the Peace, Bury St. Edmunds. January 29, and February 12, 1844.

NOTICES.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

As the contributions to the illustrations of *THE BUILDER* are daily becoming more and more frequent, it would be well if our correspondents would send new draughts of size convenient for insertion either as one, two, or three column blocks. This, at the same time that it would spare considerable trouble to the draughtsman, would tend greatly to insure the accuracy, and, consequently, the utility of such contributions.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

"W. W.'s request cannot be attended to quite so soon as he mentions, but as soon as we can find time to make the survey, the description asked for shall be given."

We shall take an opportunity of seeing Mr. Fletcher's handrails.